

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contemporary classical duo present a silent 1920s film as it was meant to be heard

Tess Said So presents
Nosferatu – A symphony of horror

One Piano Player, One Percussionist... and a Vampire.

Following 2017 seasons at Edinburgh Fringe (UK), George Town (Malaysia), Art, Not Apart, and Adelaide Fringe Festivals, Australian contemporary classical duo **Tess Said So** present a rare opportunity to see *Nosferatu*, one of the most iconic and influential silent movies of the 1920s as it was originally intended - with live music.

Adapted from Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula*, this film started the pop culture concept that sunlight is lethal to vampires – defining every vampire movie to follow. Using piano, electronics, and a massive labyrinth of drums, shakers, bells, cymbals, gongs and percussion, **Tess Said So's** new and highly original sonic interpretation provides atmosphere and vital emotional cues to F.W. Murnau's gothic silent film masterpiece – a perfect showcase of the interaction between live music and moving image.

The idea of scoring *Nosferatu* grew from childhood imagination; co-composer Will Larsen recalls, "*My older brother had a poster of Nosferatu ...when we were recording our second studio album, a lot of our sessions conjured up not just the imagery of that poster but the feeling it gave me when I was a kid*". The initial creative process was a six-month undertaking for **Tess Said So**. Although six months might seem like a long time, from the beginning it was always their ambition to perform the score without the use of a click track, and the time allowed them to know the film shot for shot.

Tess Said So is the creative partnership of musicians Rasa Daukus (piano/electronics) and Will Larsen (percussion/drums). Adopting a pop sensibility to a classical format, Rasa and Will write and perform all their own material, influenced by a shared interest in new music and blurring the lines that define musical genre, infusing their sound with pop, jazz, ambience, minimalism, and electronica.

In 2014 **Tess Said So** released their debut album "I Did That Tomorrow" with contemporary classical European record label Preserved Sound to critical acclaim. Their follow-up "Scramble + Fate" was released in 2016. While both albums achieved recognition in the Top Ten Modern Classical Albums (of 2014 and 2016) from Stationary Travels, "Scramble + Fate" notably disrupted the classical set as a featured release in American magazine JAZZIZ, the largest jazz publication in the world. In 2017, they won Best Interactive, Film or Digital at the Adelaide Fringe Festival for their production of *Nosferatu – A Symphony of Horror*.

*"A brilliantly executed, new and original cinema score" ***** – Lauren McAleer, The Upside News (Adelaide)*

*"Every screening of Nosferatu should bear their brilliant score"***** – Matt McKenzie, Great Scott Media (Adelaide)*

*"One of the most unforgettable dramatic events at the Fringe this year" ***** – James Hanton, The Student (Edinburgh)*

Show images can be downloaded from Dropbox [here](#).



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